2. Bidding by Korean companies in various NELP rounds for participating in the Indian E&P sector;

3. Forging Indo-Korean collaboration between the companies of both countries for joint commercial enterprises in third countries;

4. Basic and applied research and development regarding oil and natural gas issues;

5. Research commissioning and design, construction, operation and maintenance, engineering & management topics of oil and gas related industries;

6. Cooperation for manufacture, upgrading and supply of drilling rigs;

7. Cooperation in underground petroleum storage facility and allied activities;

8. Oil energy and environmental issues;

9. Training of specialists expertise and technical assistance;

10. Environmental protection, including oil spill emergency response systems;

11. Other areas as may be agreed upon by the Parties.

As a result of this MoU, enhanced economic and commercial cooperation is expected to improve energy security for both countries besides increasing mutual trade and investment.

IOC'S LNG Terminal at Krishnapatnam (A.P.)

2995. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has entered into an MoU with Krishnapatnam Port company for the establishment of LNG terminal at Krishnapatnam Port;

(b)if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time frame by which IOC will establish the LNG terminal at Krishnapatnam Port; and

(d) whether Government have issued any instructions to IOC in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR).(a) to (c) Indian OIL Corporation (IOC) entered Into an MoU with Krishnapatnam Port Company on the 4th February 2004 for the development and implementation of a project consisting of an LNG import terminal at Krishnapatnam Port along with an integrated power project and other associated facilities, if found feasible on techno-commercial considerations. However, the proposed LNG project at Krishnapatnam Port is not being pursued by IOC since, based on a port selection study undertaken subsequently, it was found that Ennore is a more suitable port for setting up an LNG terminal.

(d) No, Sir. Such decisions are taken by companies on commercial considerations.

Booking of gas through telephone

12996. SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ. Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether cooking gas (LPG) is available in sufficient quantity in the country;

(b) if so, whether gas connections are made available on demand;

(c) if not, the details of measures being taken to make these connections available on demand; and

(d) whether the system of booking gas refill on telephones would be continued?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR):(a) to (c) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) had restricted the release of new LPG connections since September 2005 because of a temporary shortage in bulk LPG availability. This temporary shortage of LPG had emerged largely on account of non-materialization of some additional LPG imports planned by the OMCs, shut down of RIL's refinery for the period from 4th October to 1st December 2005 and some unplanned shut downs of other

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.